

Message Text

SECRET

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7217

S E C R E T LAGOS 3377

NODIS

STATE PASS INTERESTED POSTS AS APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING BRASILIA,
RIO FOR PHIL WISE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MINI-SUMMIT IN LAGOS

REF: STATE 67374

1. AS INDICATED IN LAGOS 3113, WE FIND THE PROPOSED MINI-SUMMIT AN ATTRACTIVE IDEA. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE SEE A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS FACING A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION OF SUCH AN AFFAIR.
2. FIRST OF ALL, GARBA SEEMS TO HAVE DONE NOTHING -- OR NOTHING EFFECTIVE -- TO CONVINCE CALLAGHAN TO PARTICIPATE. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, SAM FALLE, TELLS ME LONDON IS AWARE OF AND DISTINCTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT INDICATE GARBA HAS IN FACT TAKEN SOME KIND OF INITIATIVE WITH LONDON. PRESUMABLY WE SHOULD BE PREPARAD TO DECIDE WHETHER THE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL REMAINS ATTRACTIVA TO US SHOULD CALLAGHAN BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE.
3. WOULD THE MEETING BE USEFUL IF CALLAGHAN CAME BUT SEVERAL OTHERS DID NOT? AT FIRST GLANCE, IT STRIKES US AS HIGHLY UN-
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LIKELY THAT MORE THAN TWO OR THREE OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUCH A MEETING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

4. NETO'S PARTICIPATION WOULD SUGGEST INCLUSION OF DISCUSSION OF ANGOLAN-NAMIBIAN RELATIONSHIP AND MIGHT MAKE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT A DISCUSSION OF CUBAN ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AS INDICATED IN

LAGOS 3163, WE WOULD NOT THINK THAT ANGOLAN PARTICIPATION NEED BE NECESSARY. NIGERIANS FIND NETA A VERY DIFFICULT INTERLOCUTOR AND WOULD BE RELIEVED, I BELIEVE, WERE HE TO BE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

5. I TRIED TO EXPLORE SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS YESTERDAY WITH AKADIRI BUT FOUND HIM UNINFORMED. I WILL TRY TO GET TO GARBA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO PURSUE THEM FURTHER.

6. IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA OUGHT TO BE THE FOCUS OF THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS. IT WOULD NOT SEEM PRODUCTIVE TO ENGAGE IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA. AS FOR THE HORN, THIS IS PRETTY FAR AFIELD FROM THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. FURTHERMORE, WITH AN OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION MEETING PRESUMABLY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN LAGOS ON THE HEELS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA, WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT THE FMG WOULD CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE THIS QUESTION IN THE MINI-SUMMIT AGENDA.

7. WE SEE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES IN FITTING A MINI-SUMMIT INTO THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 2 SCHEDULE. ANY ACTIVITIES NOW BEING TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED FOR THAT DAY SHOULD LOGICALLY GIVE WAY TO THIS HIGHER PRIORITY.

8. WOULD WE CONTINUE TO LOOK POSITIVELY AT A LAGOS SUMMIT WITHOUT A PRIOR ALL-PARTIES MEETING ON RHODESIA? AS INDICATED IN LAGOS 3113, WE JUDGE THAT THE FMG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MINI-SECRET

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SUMMIT IDEA EVEN IN THE INCREASINGLY PROBABLE EVENT OF NO, REPEAT, NO ALL-PARTIES DISCUSSION.
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